

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE SEPTEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REACHES 16 YEAR HIGH

1. ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY STATISTICS BUREAU OF PRIMIN'S OFFICE ON NOV 7, NUMBER OF JAPANESE UNEMPLOYED TOTALED 990,000 IN SEPT, AN INCREASE OF 50,000 FROM AUG. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPT REACHED 1.93 PERCENT, THE HIGHEST SINCE NOV 1959. NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN MANUFACTURING SECTOR, WHICH HAD SHOWN SLOW BUT STEADY UPTURN DURING SUMMER, AGAIN STARTED TO DECLINE IN SEPT.

2. IN RELEASING THE FIGURES, PRIMIN'S OFFICE SAID IT EXPECTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE AND NOTED THAT JAPANESE BUSINESS RECOVERY FROM CURRENT RECESSION SLOWER THAN EXPECTED.

3. COMMENT. OFFICIAL GOJ UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES DO NOT FULLY REFLECT CURRENT LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS HERE.
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ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL FIGURES OF MINISTRY OF LABOR,

IN AUG 1975 APPROXIMATELY 300,000 WORKERS WERE PLACED
IN A "TEMPORARY LEAVE STATUS" BY THEIR COMPANIES BUT
WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES BECAUSE
THEY RECEIVE SPECIAL PAYMENT UNDER NEW EMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE LAW ENACTED IN JAN 1975. IN ADDITION, MANY
WOMEN WORKERS HAVE BEEN LAID OFF BUT DO NOT APPLY FOR
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND INSTEAD WITHDRAW FROM LABOR
FORCE. JAPANESE LABOR UNIONS, THEREFORE, CONTINUE TO
INSIST THAT UNEMPLOYMET SITUATION IN JAPAN IS MORE
SERIOUS THAN GOJ FIGURES WOULD HAVE PUBLIC BELIEVE.
NEVERTHELESS, WHILE UNEMPLOYMENT IS MUCH TALKED ABOUT
IN MEDIA, IT IS NOT YET SERIOUS POLITICAL ISSUE IN
JAPAN.
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